

# Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Investment Strategies Committee

Final Meeting Summary  
October 14, 1998

## **Present:**

Dale Stedman, Chair  
Bill Lampson, Vice Chair  
Ted Bottiger  
Don Briscoe  
Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen  
Rep. Karen Schmidt, Steering Committee  
Peter Hurley

Bettie Ingham  
Jennifer Joly  
Rep. Maryann Mitchell  
Charles Mott  
Patricia Otley

## **Not Present:**

Art Jackson

John Kelly

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., welcoming all committee members and introducing those who did not attend the previous meeting.

## **Committee Charter Adoption**

The Chair reviewed the draft Committee charter and asked members of the Committee for any proposed revisions. The existing version of the draft charter reads as follows.

- (1) *Understand statewide transportation needs.*
- (2) *Recommend critical state and local transportation investments to be achieved within 20 years.*
- (3) *Review and evaluate state and local planning and programming practices.*
- (4) *Identify and evaluate strategies that reduce demand for transportation facilities as well as strategies that add new capacity.*
- (5) *Propose a method for recognizing and mitigating interjurisdictional impacts of transportation improvements or any other developments.*

The Committee approved Items 1, 2, and 5 of the charter as currently stated.

The Committee modified Item 3 of the charter to read, “Review, evaluate, and recommend changes to state and local transportation planning and programming practices.” [New text is italicized and underlined.]

The Committee revised Item 4 of the charter as follows, “Identify, evaluate, and recommend changes to strategies that reduce demand for transportation facilities as well as strategies that add new capacity.”

**Action: Bottiger made a motion to accept the charter language as amended. The motion was seconded, and approved with a unanimous Committee voice vote.**

**The revised charter was presented to the full Blue Ribbon Commission in the afternoon session.**

### **Communications Plan Considerations**

Members of the Committee engaged in a broad discussion of communication strategies, including a web site, newsletter, speakers' bureau, and other public outreach and media relations efforts. They also discussed public cynicism about the expenditure of public funds, existing public attitudes, effective ways to engage the general public, and coordination with ongoing public outreach efforts such as those of Sound Transit.

Committee members discussed holding meetings in the field and making site visits. Several members stressed the importance of holding meetings in various communities to obtain different perspectives and help tailor investments to meet community needs. The Chair noted that the costs and logistical challenges associated with transporting the Committee may prove prohibitive. Members also noted the importance of reaching a diverse cross-section of the public.

### **Work Plan and Committee Milestones**

The Committee discussed development of a work plan and milestones using the following outline.

- (1) Identify/define the problem;
- (2) Create a common understanding of certain issues;
- (3) Select criteria to apply for recommending strategies; and
- (4) Develop recommended strategies.

#### Items 1 & 2. Identify/Define the Problem & Create a Common Understanding of Certain Issues

Committee members suggested undertaking a learning process to build a common understanding of critical transportation issues. The members agreed to hold joint educational briefings with the full Commission on key transportation issues in November and December 1998.

#### Item 3. Select Criteria to Apply for Recommending Strategies

Committee members suggested a range of potential criteria to consider in developing recommended strategies, including the following:

- ☐ Consider the downsides of potential investments (as well as the benefits), and avoid investing in projects that will cause significant other problems.
- ☐ Focus on mobility.

- ☐ Fix the most critical problems first.
- ☐ Develop strategies with the potential to reduce demand.
- ☐ Encourage transportation choices for both people and freight, including automobiles, transit, rail, and other modes; the best transportation strategies may involve a mix of new capacity, demand management, and investment in alternative modes.
- ☐ Ensure the feasibility of recommended strategies; strategies must be “doable.”
- ☐ Consider the environmental and geographic constraints of the region.
- ☐ Consider economic competitiveness issues for all areas, not just depressed communities; bring economic development to all areas of the state.
- ☐ Consider methods for the more efficient movement of freight.
- ☐ Comply with and support existing federal and state laws (such as the Endangered Species Act, Growth Management Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, etc.); these laws could provide opportunities, rather than obstacles, if we make effective transportation planning choices.

#### Item 4. Develop Recommended Strategies

Committee members suggested a range of possible approaches to developing recommendations, including the following:

- ☐ Take a corridor approach to funding transportation; the current approach is often seen as piecemeal, focusing on spot improvements, rather than a holistic approach to improving flow throughout the entire transportation corridor. “Corridors” should be defined broadly, including interstate and international travel patterns.
- ☐ Develop a mix of transport strategies, including new road capacity, demand management, alternative modes, and other options, which collectively have the potential to improve overall transportation.
- ☐ Add ferry capacity for cross-Sound mobility.
- ☐ Where practical, deemphasize the automobile and emphasize other modes of travel and transport.
- ☐ Consider private investment in some transportation facilities.

Committee members also raised questions regarding the appropriate level of specificity for their recommendations and the proper division of labor among the three committees. The Chair urged the Committee to consider a wide range of options at this early stage in the process; at this point, members should view everything as ‘doable,’ and the group can refine its recommendations in the future.

**Public Comments**

No members of the public expressed comments to the Committee.

**Preparation for Presentation to the Full Commission**

The Chair informed the Committee members of the location of the lunch meeting and the afternoon session of the full Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation. He explained that he would report to the full Commission on the activities of this Committee, including the discussion and adoption of its charter. Committee members did not raise any other key points that they wished to bring before the full Commission.

**Committee Meeting Schedule**

Committee members were provided calendars to note the dates on which they would not be available for meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.